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REORGANIZATION OF SWEDISH COMMUNISTS

The first indications of a reorganization of the Swedish Communist Party were noted at the beginning of 1952. Alex Jansson, the former leader of the Swedish Communist Youth who had been in Norrbotten, was sent to Karlskrona and to Bofors to set up or reorganize cells. At Bofors he was assisted by Hallstensson, who had come from Jönköping. Gösta Kempe of Karlstad and Gunnar Adolfsson of Malmö, both former deputies, were sent to the naval shipyards in Göteborg for the same purpose. Adolfsson was replaced at Malmö by Bror Melinquist, previously an associate of Fritjof Lager, the secretary-general of the party. At Göteborg, a thorough purge in the party of activists suspected of Titoism took place.

The reorganization finally reached the top of the party and in March Fritjof Lager was replaced as secretary-general by Erik Karlsson, an intellectual who holds little prestige among the activists. This measure was undoubtedly taken to permit Lager to occupy himself more directly with the labor unions, where he has maintained a greater influence than any other Communist leader.

The Swedish Communist Youth, whose membership has declined sharply, also underwent changes. The organization even changed its name to Demokratisk Ungdom (Democratic Youth).

It has been announced that notable activists have left for the People's Democracies (and perhaps for the USSR). Among them are Gunnar Hansson, the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, Arbetartidningen, and also Bror Harald Larsson (accompanied by his Polish-born wife) who controlled all the cells in southwest Sweden and who was in constant contact with the Communist countries.

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